

## **Community Budgets update**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This paper reports on action by the LGA since the last Executive meeting in support of the four whole-place Community Budgets pilots.

### **Recommendation**

The Executive is invited to take note and comment.

### **Action**

LGA officers to proceed as directed.

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## **Community Budget update**

### **Background**

1. When the Executive last met, it asked for an update at each future meeting on the LGA's support to the member councils involved in the four whole-place Community Budget pilots.
2. The pilots areas themselves – Cheshire West and Chester, Essex, Greater Manchester and West London – have made good progress over the last two months. They each have teams in place, reinforced by senior secondees from Whitehall departments, and are now moving through a scoping phase into detailed work on the new place-based models of organising and funding public services which will inform the proposals they are due to make to government by October.
3. LGA officers are liaising closely at senior level with the whole-place areas, while regular telephone catch-ups have been scheduled between the Chairman and Leaders from the four areas. The following broad priorities for LGA support have been agreed:
  - 3.1. influencing at national level, including media and other communications support;
  - 3.2. convening a shared story about the ambition and scope of the pilots;
  - 3.3. providing support to combine the financial evidence from the four places into a national-level business case that would allow the Community Budgets model to be applied more widely; and
  - 3.4. supporting a “Challenge and Learning Network” of other councils with an interest in taking a whole-place approach.
4. The table attached in **Annex A** reports on progress to date.

### **Financial Implications**

5. This work has been budgeted for within the 2012-13 workplan.

**WHOLE PLACE COMMUNITY BUDGETS – LGA PROGRESS REPORT – May 2012**

<b>Work-strand</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Scope and ambition</b>	Independent analysis of the collective breadth of the pilots to ensure that they will provide the evidence to support the narrative and to identify any gaps;	Included in financial modelling specification – issued in April. Analysis to be completed within 2 weeks of consultants appointment (in May)
<b>Ministerial engagement</b>	The LGA would work with CLG to organise a meeting for leaders with the Secretary of State and Ministers.	Sir Merrick Cockell's letter to Secretary of State for CLG of 27 March. A meeting will be arranged before the Summer recess.
<b>Influencing</b>	Development of a shared narrative.  Development of an influencing strategy would circulate and would include influencing decision makers in the health service and other areas outside local government and Whitehall.	Final version to be agreed by leaders in May telephone meeting.  Influencing strategy to be discussed by leaders in May telephone meeting.
<b>Financial modelling and evidence</b>	Officers discuss a shared approach to the financial model with senior Treasury officials.	Productive working level discussions between LGA and HMT on 30 March on re-casting the Technical Analysis Group. Senior meeting with Treasury postponed to 21 May.  Bids for financial modelling work received from consultants and contract to be awarded

**Item 3**

		<p>mid-May.</p> <p>LGA project on new delivery models gathering evidence of new approaches to public service delivery – compendium of new delivery models to be circulated early May.</p>
<b>Challenge and Learning Network</b>	<p>A “challenge” session would be arranged in Cheshire West and Cheshire with the Challenge and Learning Network.</p> <p>Proposals to galvanise network</p>	<p>Way forward discussed and agreed with CWAC</p> <p>Sir Merrick Cockell wrote to C&amp;L Network leaders on 1 May.</p> <p>CEOs from C&amp;L event at LGA conference 26 June.</p>
<b>Networking</b>	LGA to provide online networking	Knowledge Hub groups launched 2 April
<b>Communications</b>	<p>LGA conference to promote whole place community budgets</p> <p>Communications around outline proposals (June)</p>	<p>Plenary session arranged on the whole place pilots involving representatives of the four pilot areas</p> <p>Communication leads discussed strategy on 8 May.</p>